IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A hot work tool steel excellent in resistance to melting loss, ~~characterized by~~ having a composition in ~~wt~~ mass %: C: 0.10 to 0.35 %, Si: less than 0.80 %, Mn: 3.0 % or less, Cr: 2.0 % or more and less than 7.0 %, 1/2W + Mo: 0.3 to 5.0 %, N: more than 0.05 % and 0.50 % or less, C + N: 0.20 to 0.60 % (with a proviso that C/N: 6 or less), O: 0.0100 % or less, P: 0.050 % or less, Al: 0.050 % or less, and the balance: substantially Fe.

2. (Currently Amended) The hot work tool steel according to claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further containing, in ~~wt~~ mass %, V: 0.01 % or more and ~~less than 0.5 %~~ 0.3 % or less.

3. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (New) The hot work tool steel according to claim 1, further containing, in mass %,

at least one of Ni: 2.0 % or less and Co: 5.0 % or less;

at least one of Ti: 1.0 % or less, Ta: 1.0 % or less, B: 0.010 % or less, and Cu: 1.0 % or less; and

at least one of S: 0.050 % or less, Ca: 0.0100 % or less, Se: 0.0100 % or less, Te: 0.0100 % or less, Zr: 0.0100 % or less, Mg: 0.0100 % or less, and Y: 0.100 % or less.

9. (New) The hot work tool steel according to claim 2, further containing, in mass %,

at least one of Ni: 2.0 % or less and Co: 5.0 % or less;

at least one of Ti: 1.0 % or less, Ta: 1.0 % or less, B: 0.010 % or less, and Cu: 1.0 % or less; and

at least one of S: 0.050 % or less, Ca: 0.0100 % or less, Se: 0.0100 % or less, Te: 0.0100 % or less, Zr: 0.0100 % or less, Mg: 0.0100 % or less, and Y: 0.100 % or less.

10. (New) A mold member excellent in resistance to melting loss, the mold member being formed of the hot work tool steel according to claim 1.

11. (New) A mold member excellent in resistance to melting loss, the mold member being formed of the hot work tool steel according to claim 2.

12. (New) A mold member excellent in resistance to melting loss, the mold member being formed of the hot work tool steel according to claim 8.

13. (New) A mold member excellent in resistance to melting loss, the mold member being formed of the hot work tool steel according to claim 9.

14. (New) A mold member excellent in resistance to melting loss, the mold member being formed of the hot work tool steel according to claim 1 and having a surface layer which has, because of modification thereof by a surface treatment, a higher resistance to Al-melting loss than that of a base metal.

15. (New) A mold member excellent in resistance to melting loss, the mold member being formed of the hot work tool steel according to claim 2 and having a surface layer which has, because of modification thereof by a surface treatment, a higher resistance to Al-melting loss than that of a base metal.

16. (New) A mold member excellent in resistance to melting loss, the mold member being formed of the hot work tool steel according to claim 8 and having a surface layer which has, because of modification thereof by a surface treatment, a higher resistance to Al-melting loss than that of a base metal.

17. (New) A mold member excellent in resistance to melting loss, the mold member being formed of the hot work tool steel according to claim 9 and having a surface layer which has, because of modification thereof by a surface treatment, a higher resistance to Al-melting loss than that of a base metal.